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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : MR. D. M. LADD

DATE: August 12, 1952

FROM : A. H. BELMONT

SUBJECT: JOHN PATON DAVIES, JR.
Policy Planning Staff
Department of State
Washington, D. C.
LOYALTY OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

PURPOSE:

To advise of a request received from the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice that:

(1) Carmel Offie be interviewed.

(2) It be ascertained whether a set of questions can be transmitted t[redacted] reported to be out of the country on a "particularly sensitive mission." (S)(U)

b3

[redacted]

BACKGROUND:

Investigation has been conducted concerning the reported recommendation by Davies on November 16, 1949, to representatives of the Office of Policy Coordination of the Central Intelligence Agency that the following individuals be employed or utilized by CIA:

John K. Fairbank
Mrs. John K. Fairbank
Agnes Smedley
Anna Louise Strong
Edgar Snow
Benjamin Schwartz

121-18528-175

121-18528

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Others who were reported to have been present at this meeting with Davies were Lyle Munson and Edward Hunter, both of whom have been interviewed by the Bureau and the results furnished to the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice. Lyle Munson, Edward Hunter, and Davies have all testified before the McCarran Committee and the McCarran Committee has furnished their testimony to the Department of Justice for review and consideration for possible perjury on the part of Davies in testifying before the McCarran Committee. The McCarran Committee has pointed out that the charges against Davies result from testimony by Lyle Munson, a former CIA Agent, that Davies recommended CIA get guidance on Far East policies from the six individuals named above. Davies, in his testimony before the McCarran Committee, denied he made such a recommendation, but said he could not discuss the issue further because of secrecy restrictions.

The Department was furnished a copy of a "Secret" memorandum from [redacted] dated November 30, 1949, made available by General Walter B. Smith, Director of CIA, [redacted] the matter of employing certain persons through appropriate cut-outs to consult and guide the Office of Policy Coordination on its covert propaganda activities in the Far East and that Davies indicated that the persons he had recommended to Roosevelt and Offie for hiring were the six individuals named above. b3

[redacted] b3

[redacted] (U)

REQUESTS FROM THE CRIMINAL DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE:

The Department by memorandum dated August 8, 1952, requested:

1. That Offie be interviewed for the purpose of ascertaining what knowledge and recollection he has as to any meetings he may have had with Davies and of what transpired at such meetings, including dates, times, places, and the identity of any people who may have attended such meetings, in addition to himself and Davies, and including the nature of any proposals which Davies may have made concerning the utilization of the six individuals in question [redacted]

2. That it be ascertained whether or not the nature of Mr. Roosevelt's present position would preclude the transmission to him of a set of written questions, through appropriate channels, and his returning the questions and his written answers thereto in the same manner.

3. That it be ascertained whether [redacted] has any objection to the FBI interviewing [redacted] for the purpose of obtaining a statement from him [as long as his anonymity is protected,] and that if no objection exists, he be interviewed and a statement obtained even if the statement consists of a denial on [redacted] part of any knowledge of the matter.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

(1) It is recommended that two agents of the Washington Field Office interview [redacted] in line with the requests of the Department of Justice pointing out to [redacted] that the interview is being conducted at the request of the Department of Justice. There is attached a suggested letter to the Washington Field Office in line with this recommendation.

(2) It is recommended that a Bureau Liaison Agent interview [redacted] to determine whether or not the nature of [redacted] present position would preclude the transmission to him of a set of written questions, through appropriate channels, and his returning the questions and his written answers thereto in the same manner. If [redacted] is available for interview at this time, the necessary arrangements should be effected by the Bureau Liaison Agent so that the interview may be conducted by the Bureau Liaison Agent and special agents of the Washington Field Office who are thoroughly familiar with all the facts in this case. b3

(3) It is recommended that a Bureau Liaison Agent interview [redacted] to determine whether [redacted] has any objection to the FBI interviewing [redacted] for the purpose of obtaining a statement from him [as long as his anonymity is protected.] It is noted that the Department has pointed out that if no objection exists, [redacted] should be interviewed and a statement obtained even if the statement consists of a denial on [redacted] part of any knowledge of this matter. If General Smith has no objection, the Bureau Liaison Agent should make the necessary arrangements so that the interview may be conducted by the Bureau Liaison Agent and special agents of the Washington Field Office who are familiar with all the facts in this case. b3

It should be pointed out to [redacted] that this additional investigation is being conducted at the specific request of the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice in order that additional information may be secured as to what transpired at the meeting or meetings at which Davies reportedly recommended the employment or utilization of the six individuals involved in this case in connection with the Department's consideration as to whether or not any perjury was committed by Davies in this matter.